

# Why Me?!?

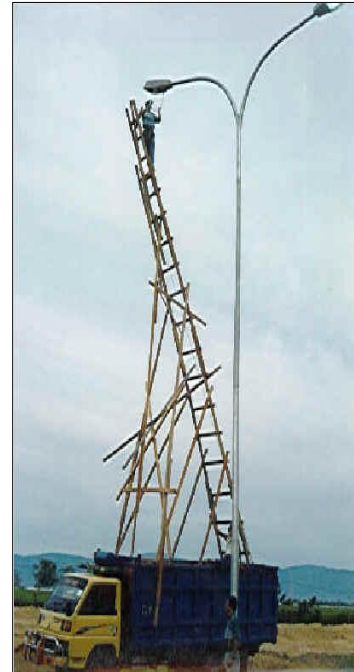
Why did DOSH decide to inspect me anyway? What did I do to attract their attention?

State law ([RCW 49.17.070](#)) established DOSH and its responsibility for conducting safety and health inspections of workplaces. DOSH established a system for trying to use its resources where they were needed the most.

In essence, DOSH's system for deciding to start a compliance inspection can be summed up in the following four categories:

## 1. "Imminent Danger" -- Serious Hazards Observed from Public Right-of-way

The inspector was driving along, minding his/her own business, and there was your employee doing some "accident just waiting to happen"



## 2. Fatality or Multiple Injuries

A work-related incident or exposure led to the death of an employee or the hospitalization of two or more employees.

### **3. Complaints/Referrals**

Complaints are allegations of workplace hazards by current or former employees (or their family members, representatives, etc).

Referrals are allegations of workplace hazards by anyone else – the employee of another business, someone from another government agency, even an article in a newspaper.

### **4. Programmed or Local Emphasis**

An employer's history of industrial insurance claims or their record of previous inspections shows an increased probability of their being out of compliance with safety and health standards.

Occasionally, DOSH will have a program to inspect all businesses in a specific industry -- an industry that has an especially high rate of injuries or a series of severe injuries.